United Nations A/C.3/52/SR.29

General Assembly
Fifty-second session
Official Records

Distr.: General
1 December 1997

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 29th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Friday, 7 November 1997, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Busacca ..... (Italy)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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97-82619 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 104: International drug control (*continued*) (A/C.3/52/L.14 and Corr.1)

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.14 and Corr.1: International action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking

1. **The Chairman** announced that draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.14 and Corr.1 had no programme budget implications.

2. **Ms. Morgan** (Mexico) said that Barbados, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mozambique, Poland, Singapore, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

3. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.14 and Corr.1 was adopted without a vote.*

Agenda item 105: Advancement of women (*continued*) (A/C.3/52/L.18, L.20/Rev.1 and L.21)

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.18: Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

4. **The Chairman** said that draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.18 had no programme budget implications.

5. **Ms. Newell** (Secretary of the Committee) recalled that, in introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Canada had orally revised the text. A new third preambular paragraph had been added: "*Recalling* also its resolutions 51/67 of 12 December 1996 and 51/226 C of 3 April 1997 on the status of women in the Secretariat,". In paragraph 2, the phrase "certain countries, including developing countries and countries with economies in transition" had been replaced by the phrase "women from certain countries, in particular from developing countries as well as from countries with economies in transition".

6. **Mr. Giroux** (Canada) said that Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Colombia, Croatia, India, Suriname, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Venezuela had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

7. **The Chairman** announced that Burundi, Guyana, Namibia, Viet Nam and Zambia also wished to become sponsors of the draft resolution.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.18 was adopted without a vote.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.20/Rev.1: Traffic in women and girls

9. **The Chairman** said that draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.20/Rev.1 had no programme budget implications.

10. **Ms. Lacanlale** (Philippines) said that the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Ireland, Israel and Kenya had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

11. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.20/Rev.1 was adopted without a vote.*

Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.21: Traditional or customary practices affecting the health of women and girls

12. **The Chairman** said that draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.21 had no programme budget implications.

13. **Mr. Aquarone** (Netherlands) said that the following countries had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Armenia, Brazil, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Estonia, Guinea, Iceland, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, the Philippines, Slovakia, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine.

14. **The Chairman** announced that Latvia and Mauritius also wished to become sponsors of the draft resolution.

15. *Draft resolution A/C.3/52/L.21 was adopted without a vote.*

Agenda item 110: Elimination of racism and racial discrimination (*continued*) (A/52/3, A/52/18, A/52/116-S/1997/317, A/52/187, A/52/254-S/1997/567, A/52/301-S/1997/668, A/52/432, A/52/447-S/1997/775, A/52/463, A/52/471, A/52/528)

Agenda item 111: Right of peoples to self-determination (*continued*) (A/52/139, A/52/286-S/1997/647, A/52/413, A/52/447-S/1997/775, A/52/485, A/52/495)

16. **Mr. Al-Hariri** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, 52 years after the founding of the United Nations, colonialism and foreign occupation continued, in various forms, to threaten international peace and security. Contemporary forms of racism were also disturbing and must be placed high on the United Nations agenda. The peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America had made great sacrifices in order to rid themselves of colonialism and exercise their right to self-determination, a right which the United Nations had reaffirmed in numerous resolutions. His own country, one of the first to be liberated from colonial rule after the Second World War, fully supported other countries' struggles for

liberation. Foreign occupation and the subjugation of peoples could not be allowed to continue and all forms of racism must be eliminated.

17. The United Nations had supported many peoples in their struggle to achieve self-determination and end racial discrimination, yet it remained powerless to secure the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. That was because of Israel's expansionist policies, its continued and blatant violations of the Charter of the United Nations, its flagrant defiance of the will of the international community and its lack of respect for the most basic human rights and for the precepts of international law. For more than 50 years, Palestinian refugees and their children had been waiting to return to the homes from which they had been driven by the Israeli occupying forces, while Israel was steadily replacing the Palestinians with Jewish settlers from all over the world. Israel was continuing to alter the demographic situation in the occupied Arab territories, impose its law on the Arab inhabitants living under its occupation and prevent them from exercising the rights laid down in international human rights instruments, including the right to self-determination. The suffering of the Palestinian people had become a contemporary tragedy and a symbol of the international community's inability to compel Israel to respect international law and to implement the relevant United Nations resolutions.

18. Israel's continued falsification and distortion of historical facts would not bring security and stability to the region, however. It must abandon its policies, withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and allow the Palestinian people to exercise its right to self-determination forthwith. Prolonging an occupation that was based on murder, repression and organized terrorism exposed the region and the world to serious risk.

19. The Middle East had been the cradle of civilization and of three great religions. Its people believed in cooperation and mutual respect and rejected all forms of occupation and racial discrimination. The Constitution and laws of the Syrian Arab Republic affirmed the importance of combating racism and racial discrimination in all its forms, as well as discrimination on any other grounds. His country adhered closely to all the relevant international instruments and believed that the ability of peoples to free territory from foreign occupation was essential to the spread of security and peace and to the enjoyment of human rights.

20. **Ms. Bano** (India) said that there was still a disturbing degree of tolerance of racial discrimination, which was reflected in weak laws and law enforcement. Recent accounts of racially motivated incidents left little doubt that racism was actually growing. Racial hatred had taken new forms and racist propaganda had found new channels of expression. Racial inequalities were also evident in social and economic indicators and patterns.

21. Her delegation therefore supported the proposal to convene a world conference on racism, to be held not later than the year 2001, in order to send a strong political message that the United Nations supported all those who were struggling against racial discrimination and intolerance. Such a conference should include the questions of immigration and xenophobia on its agenda and should also consider whether incitement to racial hatred, particularly through the new information media, could be justified in terms of the right to freedom of speech and expression. Her delegation also supported the request by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to meet occasionally in New York in order to facilitate its dialogue with States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

22. The right to self-determination was the right of peoples freely to determine their political, economic and social development model within their national boundaries. That right should not, however, be construed as authorizing any action that might impair the territorial integrity or political unity of sovereign States. The principle of self-determination could be abused to encourage secession, terrorism and mindless violence aimed at destroying peaceful coexistence, tolerance, unity and secularism. International law had not recognized a general right of peoples unilaterally to declare secession from a State. Furthermore, fragmentation of States could be detrimental to the protection of human rights and the preservation of peace and security.

23. Her delegation welcomed the report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries, which made an important contribution to understanding that phenomenon. However, it urged the Special Rapporteur to also look closely at mercenary activities other than those of a strictly contractual nature, such as activities linked to terrorism and other disruptive activities which had emerged as a growing threat to democracy, self-determination and pluralism. For over a decade, India had been the target of sustained terrorism by mercenaries armed, trained and financed beyond its borders. It was regrettable that the expert group which was to have made a detailed study of the question of mercenaries had been unable to meet for lack of financial resources.

24. **Mr. Gold** (Israel), speaking on item 111, said that Israelis understood and supported the quest of peoples throughout the world for self-determination. Zionism itself

had been a movement to restore the self-determination of the Jewish people, who had suffered more than 2,000 years of exile following the Roman occupation of their country.

25. His Government was committed to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through dialogue, and it was currently engaged in direct permanent status negotiations. It was therefore regrettable that the Committee should have before it draft resolutions which sought to determine the outcome of those negotiations. While the Palestinians were entitled to articulate their views, they should not seek to impose them in international forums, thereby bypassing the bilateral negotiating process.

26. Israel's position in the negotiations reflected the strategic context in the region: while the Palestinians were backed by a coalition of Arab States, Israel stood alone. Furthermore, the areas in which the Palestinians sought to exercise their right to self-determination included territory vital to Israel's capacity to defend its eastern borders against the threat of attack by Syria or Iraq. Any permanent status agreement must address those legitimate security concerns as well as the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

27. Draft resolutions on Palestinian self-determination simply undermined the ongoing peace process to which the Palestinians, like Israel, had committed themselves; he therefore urged all delegations to vote against such initiatives.

28. **Mr. Zaki** (Pakistan), speaking on item 111, said that the right of peoples to self-determination was the cornerstone of the international order. The commendable role of the United Nations in enabling peoples to achieve that right was evidenced by the large increase in the number of Member States over the past half century. The achievements of the United Nations in Zimbabwe, South Africa and Namibia deserved particular credit. He welcomed the efforts being made to find a peaceful solution to the situation in the Middle East. He also hoped that the crisis in the Balkans would be resolved through the implementation of the Dayton Agreement. It was vital that the territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina should be maintained and that all war criminals should be prosecuted under international law.

29. The people of Jammu and Kashmir had been denied their right to self-determination by India for more than 50 years, and they looked to the United Nations for redress. In accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, the political status of Jammu and Kashmir must be determined through a free and impartial plebiscite held under United Nations auspices. It was clearly stated in Security Council resolution 91 (1951) that any action by the so-called constituent assembly, established by India, to determine the status of Jammu and Kashmir would constitute a violation of that principle. All elections held in the state had been widely condemned as rigged and the Kashmiri people had boycotted them, with turnout for the 1989 poll being as low as 2 per cent.

30. Since the launching in 1989 of a popular movement to secure the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination, over 60,000 Kashmiris had been murdered by Indian security forces and some 32,000 imprisoned. Currently, more than 600,000 Indian troops were deployed in Jammu and Kashmir. Kashmiris had been victims of summary executions, extrajudicial killings and unprovoked massacres, while many had seen their homes destroyed. Rape was used as a weapon of war against Kashmiri women.

31. His Government had invited the Indian Government to resume bilateral talks in February 1997. The negotiations had been deadlocked, however, by India's refusal to establish a working group to continue the dialogue. He hoped that the deadlock would be broken at the meeting to be held in Dhaka in November between the Indian and Pakistani Prime Ministers.

32. The denial by India of the Kashmiri people's right to self-determination was the underlying cause of more than half a century of confrontation between India and Pakistan. Given the importance of the issue in the broader context of peace and security in South Asia, the international community must urge India to end the repression in Jammu and Kashmir and allow its people to exercise their right to self-determination through a free and fair plebiscite, as called for in the relevant United Nations resolutions.

33. **Mr. Amyari** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on item 110, said that it was regrettable that the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, although specifically instructed in his mandate to examine incidents of discrimination against Muslims, had failed to give due consideration in his reports to the phenomenon of "Islamophobia". Other, less prevalent, forms of discrimination had received disproportionate attention, with the Special Rapporteur calling for new legislation to protect against them.

34. He was deeply concerned that the Special Rapporteur had reproduced in his report to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-third session (E/CN.4/1997/71, para. 27, sect. 3) certain baseless allegations made by the Israeli Government concerning Muslims and their use of the Qur'an. Those comments had undoubtedly contributed to anti-Islamic sentiment and he urged the Special Rapporteur

to exercise greater caution and sensitivity before publicizing such claims in the future.

35. Since the problem of racism was more acute in some States than in others, consideration should be given to the appointment of special rapporteurs to examine the situation in particular countries or groups of countries. There was also a need to establish an effective monitoring mechanism within the United Nations system to prevent the use of the Internet to disseminate racist propaganda. His delegation strongly supported the convening of a world conference to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

36. **Ms. Barghouti** (Observer for Palestine), speaking on item 111, said that the right to self-determination was a fundamental human right and its denial constituted a threat to peace and security and an affront to human dignity. The international community must therefore strengthen its efforts towards universal realization of that right.

37. The Palestinian people continued to be denied its right to self-determination and was daily subjected to oppressive and discriminatory policies by Israel, the occupying Power, in violation of the relevant United Nations resolutions and the commitments made by that country in the context of the Middle East peace process. Israel's creation of new facts on the ground, such as the building of further illegal settlements, and its continuing restrictions on Palestinian's freedom of movement and detention of Palestinian prisoners were particular cause for concern. Although the Palestinian people was committed to achieving a settlement, the actions and policies of the current Israeli Government had brought negotiations to an impasse.

38. The Palestinian people would continue its struggle for an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital. The realization of its aspirations was a prerequisite for the securing of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region. It was vital that it receive the support of the States Members of the United Nations in its quest, and she therefore welcomed the favourable evolution of European Union policy on the matter. She wished to reiterate that the realization by the Palestinian people of its right to self-determination continued to be a responsibility of the United Nations, and the adoption by consensus of the resolution which her delegation would be submitting to the Committee would be another step towards that goal.

39. **Mr. Puja** (Indonesia) said that his delegation continued to follow the issues of racism and racial discrimination with deep concern and shared the view that the phenomenon of racism required resolute action and cooperation. Indonesia was committed to working with the international community in adopting and implementing appropriate responses. It was discouraging to note that the objectives of successive United Nations Decades to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination had not been achieved and that acts of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia continued throughout the world, resulting in loss of life, destruction of property and other violations of fundamental human rights. The international community should continue to support the activities envisaged in the Programme of Action for the Third Decade; it was most unfortunate that the two previous programmes had gone unfulfilled. His delegation hoped that the additional seminars and meetings scheduled for the period 1997-1998 would provide greater insight into the nature of the problem, while also adopting pragmatic recommendations for action.

40. His delegation was very concerned about the use of new technologies, particularly the Internet, to spread racist propaganda. Addressing that new form of racism required a more proactive approach at the national and international levels. Cooperation in such an undertaking was essential.

41. Indonesia supported the convening of a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, to be held not later than the year 2001. Furthermore, while financial constraints must be taken into account, the conference should not be so restricted in its deliberations as to be of little value. Since lack of financial resources had hindered the implementation of action-oriented recommendations in the past, an adequate preparatory process was clearly necessary, with input from regional meetings and from the various organs of the United Nations system. During that process, it would have to be borne in mind that the Conference should result in practical measures that would bring about positive results.

42. Since racism and racial discrimination were among the most egregious human rights violations, it was appropriate that the Commission on Human Rights should serve as the preparatory committee for the conference; the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights could coordinate such preparations. The Commission would be able to ensure that the conference was held efficiently and that it resulted in pragmatic, achievable goals. Indonesia looked forward to participating actively in the preparations for the conference.

43. **Mr. Otuyelu** (Nigeria) said that new forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance were emerging. The increasing use of the Internet to disseminate racial slurs and racist propaganda was a major source of concern, as was racial bias on the part of law enforcement personnel in some countries in the treatment of

minorities and immigrants. It was regrettable that some States had adopted immigration policies that could best be characterized as exclusionist and biased.

44. Governments should adopt policies of multiculturalism and social integration, so that the potential offered by diversity could be tapped for the socio-economic and political advancement of all sectors of society. Governments must promote a culture of tolerance and consider the adoption of measures to criminalize acts of racially motivated violence and aggression. Governments, law enforcement agents, communications experts and users of modern communications technology all had a responsibility to curb the use of the Internet for spreading racial hatred.

45. Nigeria fully supported the recommendation that a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance should be held not later than the year 2001.

46. The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination remained of critical concern to the Nigerian Government. No matter how mercenaries were used or what form their activities took, they remained a threat to the self-determination of peoples in the areas where they operated. Nigeria endorsed the recommendation that States should incorporate into their national legislation practical measures to prohibit the use of their territories for the recruitment, training, assembly, transit, financing and use of mercenaries.

47. **Mr. Fernández Palacios** (Cuba) said that the right of all States to the full exercise of national sovereignty and of all peoples to self-determination without foreign interference or intervention were the pillars upon which the post-war legal order and the United Nations had been built. Although colonialism as a system no longer existed, the peoples of the world faced other, equally pernicious, threats arising from new policies of force and domination and from legally suspect theories which sought to justify an alleged right of intervention.

48. The maintenance of peace rested on respect for nations and for their territorial integrity and cultural diversity. The exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination was necessary for the enjoyment of all human rights. As long as foreign domination and occupation continued, talk of respect for those rights would be meaningless. In that context, his Government was deeply concerned at the deterioration in the Middle East peace process and vigorously condemned Israel's continuing policy of violating the human rights of the Palestinian people, particularly its right to self-determination and to the establishment of its own independent State. In order to be just, lasting and comprehensive, any settlement of the conflict must include Israel's complete withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including the West Bank, the Syrian Golan, and southern Lebanon.

49. Cuba reiterated its demand for the return of the territory occupied illegally and against the wishes of the Cuban people by the United States naval base on Guantánamo.

50. Mercenary activities were not a thing of the past; far from abating, they were taking on new forms which were much more dangerous for the enjoyment of human rights. Even in peacetime, mercenaries were being used to frustrate the self-determination of peoples, damage countries' infrastructure, and threaten the lives, safety and human rights of their inhabitants. For more than 30 years, Cuba had been the victim of mercenary activities, promoted and financed from the territory of the United States of America. His delegation strongly condemned the continuation of such practices, which violated basic principles of international law, and gave its full support to the continuation of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries.

51. **Mr. Simón Pardos** (Argentina) reiterated his Government's commitment to the goals of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and noted that 148 States had ratified the Convention. He urged those States which had not yet done so to follow suit. His Government welcomed the observations made by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination concerning Argentina's implementation of the Convention, and it was fully committed to acting on the Committee's recommendations for improving the situation in Argentina. It had already adopted a constitutional amendment placing international human rights treaties on an equal footing with the Constitution. It had also established national commissions to design practical measures for combating discrimination in all its forms and a special commission to investigate the activities on Argentine territory of persons linked to racist practices during the Second World War as well as their post-war consequences.

52. Argentina agreed that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should be able to meet occasionally in New York to facilitate its consideration of the periodic reports of States parties that did not have permanent missions in Geneva.

53. His Government believed that the fight against discrimination required a firm commitment to the goal, set

forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of promoting understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations.

54. **Mr. Houansou** (Benin) said that racism and racial discrimination posed a permanent threat to international peace and security. Although the cold war had ended, ethnic, nationalist and religious tensions and the threat of terrorism were new sources of concern for the international community. Such tensions had caused the recent tragic wars in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

55. The complexity of the struggle against racial discrimination, ethnic rivalries and nationalist extremism resided in their historical, political, social, economic and religious dimensions. Efforts to combat those phenomena should therefore include awareness-creation activities using the national and international media; they must be methodical, proactive and persistent and be founded upon the principle that human civilization was a mosaic of differing cultures whose peaceful coexistence would guarantee universal advancement.

56. In Benin, that principle inspired the actions of the Government, non-governmental organizations and other sectors of civil society. A national institute for human rights and democracy had recently been founded, and in June 1997 it had organized an international expert meeting on all forms of discrimination based on racial, ethnic or national origin, religion or belief in sub-Saharan Africa. The Government also organized regular seminars on diversity for teachers in cooperation with trade unions and the media, and appreciated the support provided for such activities by the United Nations system and bilateral partners.

57. In order to achieve peaceful coexistence among peoples, it was essential that national efforts be properly followed up at the international level, a task which called for creativity and effectiveness on the part of United Nations bodies. The recommendations of bodies such as the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for considering the situation in States parties which were behind in submitting their periodic reports might not always reflect the real situation in those countries but they did at least give those bodies an opportunity to make criticisms and to encourage the preparation of reports.

58. His delegation agreed that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination should be able to meet in Geneva and New York alternately, and it urged States parties to ratify the amendment to the Convention concerning the financing of that Committee. Activities under the Programme of Action for the Third Decade also required appropriate financial support.

59. Phenomena such as the resurgence of theories of racial inferiority, the use of the Internet for disseminating anti-Semitic, racist and xenophobic propaganda, and the forcible mass repatriation of immigrants must be strongly resisted by the international community. Benin therefore supported the convening of an international conference to discuss the question of racism in all its dimensions.

60. **Ms. Samah** (Algeria) said that racism and racial discrimination continued to predominate, and even proliferate in many parts of the world, including in countries where democratic values and human rights had long been firmly entrenched. The campaign against racism and racial discrimination must be stepped up in order to eradicate that evil, whose consequences were dangerous both nationally and internationally. States must tighten their laws and other provisions with a view to prosecuting and punishing the perpetrators of racist acts. Public opinion must be made aware of the problem and the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination must be disseminated as widely as possible.

61. Algeria fully supported the adoption of national policies aimed at eliminating racism and racial discrimination and of concerted action by States and international organizations to that end. It supported the convening of a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, to be held not later than the year 2001, and would do its utmost to help achieve the goals set.

62. The important work of decolonization begun by the United Nations would remain incomplete as long as peoples were unable to exercise their right to self-determination. Peace and security could be restored in the Middle East only through a comprehensive settlement based on the exercise by the Palestinian people of its inalienable right to self-determination and the withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied since 1967. Algeria supported the efforts of the people of Western Sahara to exercise their right to self-determination within the framework of a free and fair referendum organized by the United Nations in cooperation with the Organization of African Unity. The consensus adoption by the Fourth Committee of a resolution reiterating its support for such a referendum was a positive development in that regard. The international community, and the Security Council in particular, should ensure that the agreements reached were scrupulously observed so that the people of Western Sahara were able to express their wishes freely and without administrative or military constraints.

63. **Mr. Hamida** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, although the establishment of a multi-ethnic, democratic State in South Africa testified to the gains that had been

made in the fight against racism the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism (A/52/471) made it clear that racism and racial discrimination remained a problem.

64. A further problem was the disregard and contempt which some States showed for others by denying them rights which they themselves took for granted. Such was the position adopted towards Arab and Islamic States by the United States of America, which pursued its policies either unilaterally or through the Security Council, using sanctions against several Arab States to destroy their economies and military capabilities. With the ending of the cold war, that country could find no enemy other than Islam and Muslims.

65. In many countries which claimed to be the champions of human rights, blacks, Arabs and Muslims were abused and their human rights violated to an alarming extent. Showing contempt and hatred for those groups had become a way to win votes. While anti-Islamic propaganda was promoted and freely aired in the media on the pretext of freedom of speech, pro-Islamic speakers were denied the opportunity to express their views and were accused of stirring up racial or religious hatred. It was hypocritical for such States, which had ruthlessly exploited the countries that they had colonized, to call for respect for human rights while abusing their own minorities. His country therefore supported the convening of a world conference to address such issues.

66. The Charter of the United Nations and a variety of international instruments declared that all peoples living under foreign occupation had the right to self-determination and to resist such occupation. Despite United Nations efforts to end colonialism, there were still peoples, such as the Palestinian people, living under occupation and unable to exercise their right to self-determination. The Palestinian people had been forcibly dispossessed of its land while the rest of the world looked on, and it had been living in refugee camps since 1948, awaiting the implementation of United Nations resolutions that had established its right to self-determination and to establish an independent State in Palestine.

67. It was clear from the report of the Special Rapporteur on the question of the use of mercenaries (A/52/495) that mercenary activity was continuing, with the support and protection of certain States, in violation of the precepts of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and fundamental human rights. His country opposed the use, recruitment, financing and training of mercenaries and called for international cooperation in halting that phenomenon.

The meeting rose at 12.10 p.m.